

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 05182 290616Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----127324 290617Z /14
R 280945Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9050

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5182

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE--EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY CHIEF OF MISSION

REF: SINGAPORE 5149

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH LOCAL COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES
OUR REFTEL RECOMMENDATION FOR REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE COAST
GUARD OFFICE IN SINGAPORE OR RELOCATING IT ELSEWHERE.

2. THE COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES TOLD US THAT THE QUESTION
OF RELOCATING THEIR PACIFIC AREA PERSONNEL IS CURRENTLY UNDER
ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE
IN THEIR WORK LOAD IN JAPAN AND KOREA. THE POSSIBILITY OF
TRANSFERRING ONE OF THE SINGAPORE POSITIONS TO JAPAN IS BEING
EXAMINED IN THIS CONNECTION.

3. THE COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES FELT STRONGLY THAT THE SINGAPORE
OFFICE, EVEN IF REDUCED IN SIZE, SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED
ENTIRELY. IN THEIR VIEW, THERE CONTINUES TO BE SUFFICIENT WORK
IN THE AREA COVERED MOST EFFECTIVELY FROM SINGAPORE TO WARRANT
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AT A MINIMUM ONE FULL-TIME OFFICER. THEY NOTE THAT THEIR
WORK LOAD IN THIS AREA MAY INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AS THE TWO
INDONESIAN LNG PROJECTS REACH THEIR FULL SCHEDULED EXPORT LEVELS
IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

4. AS INDICATED REFTEL, THE SINGAPORE COAST GUARD OFFICE
CONSISTS OF TWO OFFICERS, ONE ENLISTED MAN AND TWO LOCAL

EMPLOYEES. IF THE OFFICE WERE REDUCED BY THE TRANSFER OF ONE
OF THE OFFICERS, IT MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO RELOCATE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND HOUSEKEEPING TASKS TO DO AWAY WITH THE SERVICES
OF THE ENLISTED MAN AS WELL. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS NOT DISCUSSED
WITH THE COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES, SINCE WE WERE UNSURE
AS TO ITS FEASIBILITY. WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVISE.
HOLDRIDGE

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